

ALBERTA'S FINANCES

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# BUDGET SPEECH

DELIVERED BY

HON. A. C. RUTHERFORD

PRIME MINISTER AND PROVINCIAL TREASURER  
OF ALBERTA

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FEBRUARY 25, 1908

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MR. SPEAKER:—

It devolves upon me this afternoon to present the Third Budget to this Legislature. Although this is the third financial statement that I have the honor to present, yet it must be borne in mind that the Government has only carried on the affairs of the Province for a little more than two years.

During the past year the whole civilized world has been to a certain extent affected by a financial stringency. Happily in Canada this financial depression has not been so keenly felt as in some of the other countries of the world, and particularly by our neighbors lying to the south of us. The financial stringency was much more keenly felt in the United States of America than in the Dominion of Canada. As for Alberta, had it not been for over-speculation in real estate in the various towns and cities of the Province it would scarcely have been felt at all. Happily this financial stringency is passing away. Monetary conditions are improving. The Bank of England rate has decreased from seven per cent. to four per cent., and monetary institutions are giving out moneys much more freely than a few months ago. So far, however, as the Government of the Province of Alberta is concerned there has been no financial stringency. At no time during the past year has our account in the bank been overdrawn. We met our liabilities, and have a surplus at the end of the year 1907 amounting to \$69,650.05.

Hon. Members will recollect that last year I predicted a surplus of \$56,276.10. That prediction has been more than fulfilled. In calculating this surplus I would draw the attention of honorable Members of the House to the fact that we have made no charge under the head of capital expenditure. Some other Governments in order to make a surplus, or to swell their surplus, have a capital account and charge certain expenditures against it. We have charged all our expenditure to the ordinary consolidated revenue of the Province. I am sure it is pleasing and gratifying to the honorable Members of this Assembly and to the people of this Province that we have been able to expend large amounts during the past year on Education, the administration of justice, various agricultural objects, hospitals and on public works, and still have a very gratifying surplus.

It is now a little over forty years since the scattered Provinces of Canada were confederated into what is known as the Dominion of Canada. On the 1st of July, 1867, our old Provinces of Canada joined together in one confederation as the Dominion of Canada. In bringing about this result we look back with pride to some of the men who took a part in effecting that result. The names of Sir John A. Macdonald, George Brown and Sir George E. Cartier are dear to every patriotic Canadian in this connection. The British North America Act of 1867 gave to the Provinces of Canada a constitution and prescribed the duties which devolved upon the Federal Parliament as well as upon the Provincial Legislatures of Canada. The Confederation Act prescribed, as well, the amount of subsidies which the Provinces should receive from the Dominion of Canada and set out the basis upon which these subsidies could be earned. The fathers of Confederation no doubt looked forward to a chain of Provinces extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. They did not see this occur in their day, but to the Govern-

ment of Sir Wilfrid Laurier we are indebted for the completion of confederation in the setting apart of the new Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan out of the North-West Territories, and making them part of this great confederation. When the history of the present time comes to be written the name of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his Government will loom large in connection with this great work.

Honorable Members of this House will recollect that a part of our constitution is embodied in what is known as The Alberta Act. It is not my intention on this occasion to deal with all the features of The Alberta Act, but merely to draw the attention of honorable Members of this House to the financial provisions made to the Province of Alberta by this Act, which came into effect on the 1st of September, 1905. Since then we have a new and better financial arrangement. Larger subsidies on a somewhat different basis have been provided for us in what is known as The British North America Act of 1907. Forty years have passed since the original Confederation Act was passed by the Imperial Parliament, and in the year 1907 a new British North America Act was passed by the same Parliament. I wish on this occasion to compare the financial terms as provided by The Alberta Act of 1905 with the financial terms provided by The British North America Act of 1907.

#### TERMS UNDER THE ALBERTA ACT 1905.

It was recognized that we had to say the least fairly good financial terms by virtue of The Alberta Act of 1905. We have under The British North America Act of 1907 a very substantial increase given us.

Under The Alberta Act which assumed that our population was 250,000 we received under the head of Government and Legislation the sum of.....	\$50,000.00
A per capita allowance of eighty cents a head amounting to.....	200,000.00
Debt Allowance.....	405,375.00
In lieu of land.....	375,000.00
Total.....	\$1,030,375.00

In addition to this, each year for the first five years we receive in addition in lieu of lands for public buildings the sum of \$93,750.00, making a total in five years of \$468,750.00.

On a population of 400,000, under Alberta Act, we would receive under

Government and Legislature.....	\$ 50,000.00
Eighty cents per head.....	320,000.00
Debt allowance.....	405,375.00
In lieu of land.....	562,500.00
Total.....	\$1,337,875.00

On a population of 800,000 under Alberta Act:

Government and Legislature.....	\$ 50,000.00
Eighty cents per head.....	640,000.00
Debt allowance.....	405,375.00
In lieu of land.....	750,000.00
Total.....	\$1,845,375.00

On a population of 1,200,000 under Alberta Act:

Government and Legislature.....	\$ 50,000.00
Eighty cents per head.....	640,000.00
Debt allowance.....	405,375.00
In lieu of land .....	<u>1,125,000.00</u>

Maximum grant under Alberta Act..\$2,220,375.00

This is the maximum grant which we could receive from the Dominion Government under the provisions of the Alberta Act, namely, \$2,220,375.00.

#### MCBRIDE ENVIES OUR TERMS.

Some of the Governments of our neighboring Provinces have been eagerly watching and noting the financial terms given to the new Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. The Prime Minister of the Province of British Columbia at the Provincial Conference held in the city of Ottawa in October, 1906, based some of his chief arguments for an increased subsidy to British Columbia on the financial terms which were granted to the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan under The Autonomy Act. I think I can do no better than quote his argument presented upon that occasion with regard to the financial terms received by this Province and the Province of Saskatchewan as compared with the financial position of British Columbia.

In his argument he said:—

“Comparing the terms conceded to British Columbia and to the new provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, it is found in effect that when these provinces are in receipt of the total allowance to which they will be ultimately entitled per annum, the amount in round numbers, will be \$2,250,000.00, while the total of British Columbia's allowance, when it has reached its maximum, will be less than \$500,000.00. It is not contended that the new provinces have received too much, but that British Columbia has received far too little. Alberta and Saskatchewan contain large, compact, arable areas presenting no physical difficulties or obstacles to development. While it may be said that in their case the lands and minerals belonged to the Dominion, if we take the case of British Columbia, with its public domain in its own right, the average of its receipts for the past thirty years on account of its natural resources has only been \$235,000.00 per annum, from which must be deducted the cost of administration, not less, at the present time than \$100,000.00 per annum. It is submitted further that the readjustments of the subsidies every two and a half years, according to the increase of population ascertained by census-taking, in our estimation, is another important advantage which the new provinces have over British Columbia. They obtain almost immediately in increased subsidy the benefit of increased population while British Columbia, in which the increase of population is also very rapid, has to wait ten years for readjustment. There is, therefore, only one of two conclusions to be drawn from a comparison of the term in the two cases; either the new provinces have been too generously endowed by the Dominion—which is not alleged—or British Columbia has received very inadequate consideration of its requirements.”

This, Mr. Speaker, is the opinion of the Conservative Premier of the Province of British Columbia with regard to our financial terms under The Alberta Act.

## ALBERTA HAS EXCELLENT TERMS.

Now, Mr. Speaker, according to what the Hon. Mr. McBride states, British Columbia only receives \$235,000.00 per annum on account of its natural resources, from which has to be deducted the cost of administration, \$100,000.00 per annum, while our Province receives \$375,000.00 under the Alberta Act from the start; \$93,750.00 annually for five years to provide for the construction of necessary public buildings, and when we have a population of 1,200,000 we would have received for all time to come an amount in lieu of our public domain of \$1,125,000.00 under The Alberta Act. I do not say that we are receiving too much, but reading the Hon. Mr. McBride's observations, we glean some information from an outside source as to what was thought of our financial provision.

## B.N.A. ACT, 1907.

I have stated that our financial condition has been much improved by the British North America Act of 1907. Hon. Members will recollect that I intimated during our Second Session of this Legislature that the Government of this Province had received an invitation from the Federal Government to attend a Provincial Conference at Ottawa to discuss the matter of the desirability of increased subsidies to the Provinces of Canada. This Government accepted the invitation. I proceeded to Ottawa in October, 1905, accompanied by the Honourable the Attorney General of this Province. Certain resolutions were passed by that Conference asking for increased allowances. These resolutions were presented to the Federal Parliament at Ottawa soon after the Conference and a memorial was presented to the British Parliament, by the Parliament of Canada requesting that the British North America Act of 1867 should be changed so far as the subsidies to the Provinces of Canada were concerned.

I might be permitted to inform the Members of this House that when in London last spring I had an interview with one of the Members of the Imperial House and explained the position of this Province with regard to our claim for increased subsidy. The Member referred to stated that he would watch the Legislature in our behalf.

The new British North America Act came into force on the first day of July, 1907, forty years after the original Confederation Act. Our increase in subsidy under this Act, on an estimated population of 250,000, is \$130,000.00 making our total present subsidy \$1,254,125.00 per year payable half-yearly in advance. On a population of 400,000 we will receive an increase of \$140,000.00, making a total subsidy of \$1,477,875.00. On a population of 800,000 our increase will be \$170,000.00, making a total subsidy of \$2,015,375.00. On a population of 1,000,000 our increase will be \$330,000.00, making our total subsidy \$2,550,375.00. On a population of 1,200,000 our increase will be \$490,000.00, or a total subsidy of \$2,710,375.00.

Bear in mind, Mr. Speaker, that our maximum grant under The Alberta Act was reached when we would have a population of 1,200,000. Under the British North America Act of 1907 at that time we will have an increase over and above that given by the Alberta Act of \$490,000.00 or nearly half a million dollars.

On a population of 1,500,000 our increased grant will be \$750,000.00, or \$2,970,375.00.

On a population of two million our increase will be \$1,150,000.00 or a total subsidy of \$3,370,375.00.

On a population of 2,500,000 we will have an increase of \$1,550,000.00 or a total subsidy from the Dominion Government then of \$3,770,375.00.

The 1907 Bill grants Eighty cents per head up to 2,500,000 and Sixty cents per head over 2,500,000.

You will note, Mr. Speaker, that under the British North America Act of 1907 there will be no maximum grant. So long as the population keeps on increasing our subsidy will consequently increase. Under the Alberta Act we had a maximum grant, but under this Act there is no maximum grant.

We have an advantage too over the older Provinces in that our subsidies are rearranged on a census taken every five years instead of ten years. The grants to the older Provinces are rearranged on a census taken every ten years. This, Mr. Speaker, is quite a material advantage which we possess.

I think, Mr. Speaker, it is very safe to say that if our additional grant under the British North America Act of 1907 was set aside each year until our population reaches eight hundred thousand, we would have quite sufficient moneys to construct the handsome legislative buildings, a cut of which hangs upon the wall of this chamber.

Let me draw the attention of honorable Members to the section in the British North America Act of 1907 which sets out the time under which our subsidies are rearranged.

#### PROVISION OF B.N.A. ACT.

"The population of a Province shall be ascertained from time to time in the case of the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, respectively by the last quinquennial census or statutory estimate of population made under the acts establishing those provinces or any other Act of the Parliament of Canada, making provision for the purpose, and in the case of any other Province by the last decennial census for the time being."

Our population exceeds 250,000, our per capita allowance will be increased so that we do not necessarily have to wait until our population reaches four hundred thousand to earn an additional amount over and above the amount which we at present receive.

#### MANITOBA LIKES OUR TERMS, TOO.

I stated, Mr. Speaker, that the Governments of some of our neighboring Provinces have been watching intently the financial provisions which have been made for these new Provinces. The Province of Manitoba is quite small in extent. At present it is only about a quarter of the area of the Province of Saskatchewan or Alberta. A movement has been on foot for a number of years to extend the boundaries of Manitoba so as to make its area larger than it is at present—in fact as large as Alberta. At the present session of the Legislature of Manitoba the Government of that Province placed in the mouth of the Lieutenant Governor in the speech from the Throne, a clause stating that they viewed with pleasure the fact that the Dominion Parliament proposed to extend the boundaries of the Province of Manitoba. This clause was to the effect that the financial terms Manitoba would accept would be similar to the terms given to the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, and following that up a memorial was passed to the Do-

minion Parliament by the Legislature of the Province of Manitoba setting forth the demands of that Province in regard to financial assistance. You will find, Mr. Speaker, in that memorial that the Manitoba Government copied the exact wording with regard to the amounts which the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan receive under the Alberta and Saskatchewan Acts. It was stated in the Legislature by Premier Roblin that Manitoba would accept the Alberta and Saskatchewan terms for debt allowance and in lieu of lands and no other.

Mr. Speaker and honorable Members will note that the Conservative Prime Minister of Manitoba does not seek the public domain, the lands and the minerals of the Province of Manitoba when its boundaries are extended, but requests the same financial terms which the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan receive under the Alberta and Saskatchewan Acts.

#### SPLENDID ENDOWMENT FOR SCHOOLS.

Last year we received from the Dominion Government quite an increased amount from the proceeds of the sales of school lands in the Province. Previously we received a very small amount. We have, as you are aware Mr. Speaker, a splendid endowment for the schools of the Province—two sections of land in every township. A small portion of these lands have been sold, and we are receiving the revenues from the sales. Last year we received between fifty-eight and fifty-nine thousand dollars from interest on the proceeds of the sale of school lands. Our revenues in this connection will of course keep on increasing in future as a result of further sales.

I already stated that under the British North America Act of 1907 we are receiving substantial increases in subsidies from the Dominion Government. I think now, Mr. Speaker, that you will agree with me that they are not only substantial but magnificent increases.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you will expect that I should bring to the attention of the House a statement of the receipts and expenditures for the Province during the year 1907.

#### RECAPITULATION OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FOR 1907.

##### Revenue—

Balance December 31st, 1906.....	\$ 412,398.06
Received from Dominion of Canada.....	1,053,708.34
Received from the Treasury Department.....	195,921.47
Received from the Provincial Secretary Department.....	30,619.95
Received from Attorney General's Department.....	272,595.60
Received from the Public Works Department.....	12,126.75
Received from the Agricultural Department.....	8,641.38
Received from the Dairy Commissioners.....	178,919.99
Received from Education Department.....	1,154.00
Received from Clerk of Legislative Assembly.....	2,250.00
Received from Government Printer.....	2,919.40
Received from refunds.....	16,245.58
Received from Educational Tax.....	25,799.67
Received from Public Buildings Trust Account.....	244,058.04
Received from School Lands.....	62,667.11

Total.....\$2,520,025.34

##### Expenditures—

Civil Government.....	\$ 147,855.53
Legislation.....	32,532.14



Administration of Justice.....	\$ 205,847.16
Public Works.....	1,271,437.46
Education.....	339,087.31
Agriculture and statistics.....	314,946.23
Hospitals, charities and public health.....	38,187.47
Miscellaneous.....	94,467.99
Remissions.....	3,014.00
Warrants (Light Horse Band).....	3,000.00
Surplus, December 31st, 1907.....	69,650.05
Total.....	<u>\$2,520,025.34</u>

Leaving a surplus on hand on December 31st, 1907, amounting to \$69,650.05.

We expended during the year 1907 on telephones the sum of \$262,262.79. If this expenditure had not been made out of general revenue we would have had a surplus of \$331,912.84.

We had in addition to this several amounts standing to our credit in Trust Funds under—

Liquidation trust fund.....	\$ 5,501.74
Special trust fund.....	886.33
Insurance trust fund.....	5,157.63
License trust fund.....	1,194.63
General trust fund.....	4,342.31
Registrar's assurance trust fund.....	54,473.14
	<u>\$ 71,555.78</u>

#### VARIOUS SOURCES OF REVENUE.

We receive a revenue from local sources. I will now place before honorable Members a statement of the amounts we received from various sources from which we received a revenue other than what we are in receipt of from the Dominion Government. I might state that in nearly every instance our revenues from these sources are higher than I predicted in my budget speech last year, showing that the province has been prosperous. I might state too, Mr. Speaker, that I do not look for any diminution of the revenue from these sources this coming year. We are entering upon a year in which I think we will have a large amount of development. I do not look upon the situation from the point of view of the pessimist, but from the point of view of an optimist.

We received from the Treasury Department the sum of \$196,668.30, the items being:—

Hail Insurance Fees.....	\$ 22,241.37
Loan Companies.....	1,335.50
Trust Companies.....	500.00
Banks.....	13,600.00
Land Companies.....	2,825.00
Life Insurance Companies.....	3,831.95
Fire Insurance Companies.....	5,897.89
Accident Insurance.....	208.60
Dominion Express Co.....	500.00
Bell Telephone Co. of Canada.....	732.75
C. N. R. Telegraph Co.....	214.10
Miscellaneous.....	647.50
Canadian Pacific Railway Tax.....	121,460.00
Interest.....	21,926.81
	<u>\$ 195,521.47</u>

## PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT—

License fees.....	\$ 790.00
Pedlars' fees.....	475.00
Marriage fees.....	3,130.00
Certificates under Provincial seal.....	121.00
Incorporation fees.....	10,934.00
Registration fees.....	698.00
Under Foreign Companies Ordinance—	
License fees.....	12,915.00
Registration fees.....	1,377.95
Incorporation fees under Chap. 22, 1907.....	7.00
Registration fees under Sec. 10, Chap. 5, 1907.....	3.00
Automobile license fees.....	169.00
	<u>\$ 30,619.95</u>

## DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL—

Notary Public fees.....	\$ 620.00
Commissions for Oaths.....	90.00
Succession Duties.....	484.00
Court Costs under L. I. O.....	80.00
Escheated Bail.....	200.00
Registration fees.....	131,256.20
Fines under Dominion Statutes.....	10,031.76
Fines under Ordinances.....	11,643.41
Hotel Licenses.....	55,050.29
Wholesale Liquor Licenses.....	10,112.81
Dining Car Licenses.....	200.00
Commercial Travellers' Licenses.....	3,570.00
Permits under Liquor License Ordinance.....	460.00
Brewers' and Distillers' Licenses.....	1,260.00
Forfeited Protest fees.....	40.00
Court fees.....	47,497.73
	<u>\$ 272,595.60</u>

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS—

Engineers' Examination fees.....	\$ 2,449.00
Steam Boiler Inspection fees.....	3,361.00
Lease of Road Allowances.....	677.05
Telephone fees.....	4,268.24
Other sources.....	1,371.46
Total.....	<u>\$ 12,126.75</u>

## AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT—

Dairy Commissioner	
Sale of Butter.....	\$ 175,006.74
Game Licenses.....	3,499.50
Registrations of Stallions.....	1,139.00
Other sources.....	7,916.13
Total.....	<u>\$ 187,561.37</u>

## EDUCATION DEPARTMENT—

Examination fees.....	\$ 1,154.00
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## LEGISLATION—

Private Bill fees.....	2,250.00
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## GOVERNMENT PRINTER—

Official Gazette, Subscription and advertising, sale of Ordinances and material.....	2,919.40
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I think perhaps I should give a general statement of the expenditure for the year 1907 under the leading headings.

Under the head of Civil Government we expended:—

Lieutenant Governor's Office.....	\$ 1,436.00
Executive Council.....	37,148.08
Attorney General's Department.....	14,051.36
Provincial Secretary's Department.....	4,046.69
Treasury Department.....	8,170.57
Audit Office.....	7,653.97
Public Works Department.....	43,407.94
Education Department.....	11,082.07
Agriculture Department.....	20,858.85
	<u>\$ 147,855.53</u>

#### LEGISLATION.

Mr. Speaker's Sessional Allowance.....	\$ 1,500.00
Mr. Deputy Speaker.....	200.00
Indemnity to Members.....	25,724.80
Clerk.....	800.00
Library.....	2,340.72
Miscellaneous.....	1,966.62
	<u>\$ 32,532.14</u>

#### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Clerks.....	\$ 19,152.94
Process Issuers.....	615.61
Sheriffs.....	5,418.40
Official Shorthand Writers.....	3,057.85
Jury and Witness fees.....	13,776.87
Land Titles Offices.....	44,223.42
Maintenance and Transportation, Prisoners and Insane.....	48,063.14
Maintenance in Asylum.....	40,291.95
Liquor License Inspection.....	10,141.05
Miscellaneous.....	21,105.93
	<u>\$ 205,847.16</u>

#### PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Legislative and Departmental Buildings.....	\$ 46,424.95
Inspection of Public Works, Coal Mines, and Steam Boilers.....	27,893.18
Fire Guards, Testing for Water, and Ferries.....	19,693.66
Public Roads.....	238,962.54
Public Bridges.....	308,848.70
Surveys of Roads and Drains.....	58,006.78
Parliament Buildings and other Public Buildings..	242,841.99
Tools and Implements.....	21,581.53
Public Buildings Sites.....	11,045.50
Provincial Telephones.....	262,262.79
Miscellaneous.....	33,875.84
	<u>\$1,271,437.46</u>

#### EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

The principal item of expenditure in the Educational Department was grant to Schools.....	\$ 159,725.89
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#### AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT.

Expenditure (\$314,946.23). The chief items being:	
Expenditure under Agricultural Societies Ordinance	\$ 14,550.45
Judges at Exhibitions.....	1,593.35
Institutes.....	10,451.33
Experiments, Farm Crops.....	3,383.04
Destruction of Noxious Weeds.....	16,358.72

Sugar Beet Industry.....	\$ 23,366.50
General Dairy.....	11,374.15
Loans to Creameries.....	13,114.15
Advance Payments to Creamery patrons.....	<u>183,160.11</u>
(Grants were also paid to Cattle, Horse, and Swine Breeder's Associations).	

## HOSPITALS, CHARITIES AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

Expenditure under Hospital Ordinance.....	\$ 31,438.50
Expenditure under Public Health Act.....	3,959.89
Care of Incurables.....	1,437.60
Miscellaneous.....	<u>1,351.48</u>

## MISCELLANEOUS VOTE.

Expenditure (\$94,467.99). The principal items being:	
Hail Insurance Losses.....	\$ 33,113.66
Consolidation of Ordinances.....	7,601.24
Government Printer's Office.....	43,910.66
Commissions.....	<u>7,412.23</u>

I shall now briefly inform honorable Members as to some details of the work which our various Departments accomplished during the past year.

I would like to draw your attention, very briefly, Mr. Speaker, to the work of the Department of the Attorney General. I am sure it is gratifying to honorable Members of this Assembly to learn that the receipts of moneys received by the Department of the Attorney General more than met the expenditure of that department for the year. You will note, Mr. Speaker, that the receipts from the Department of the Attorney General amounted to \$272,595.60, and the expenditure amounted to \$205,847.16.

From the Registry Offices of the Province there was received \$172,886.85. There was expended for salaries, etc., the sum of \$44,223.42, leaving the splendid amount of \$128,663.43, over and above the expenditure. I estimated last year from this branch of the service that we would receive some eighty thousand dollars over and above the expenditure, and instead of that we have a much larger amount. The amount received in court fees, \$47,497.73, is rather significant. Fines under the Dominion Statutes, \$10,031.76 and fines under the Ordinances and Statutes of the Province, \$11,643.41. I am sure it is desirable, Mr. Speaker, that in connection with the business of the courts of the Province that the receipts should meet the expenditure and it is indeed very gratifying that the receipts do exceed the expenditure even in the early stages of the history of Alberta.

As an evidence of the strict enforcement of the provisions of the Liquor License Ordinance by the Department of the Attorney General, I would draw your attention, Mr. Speaker, to the amounts of fines received—

Fines received from Licenses.....	\$2,171.00
Fines from Non-Licensees.....	<u>5,642.00</u>

Total..... \$7,813.00

The Department of the Attorney General, as you are aware, Mr. Speaker, is making arrangements that sessions of the District Courts will be held in various parts of the Province other than the places where Court has been held heretofore, thus making it less expensive for litigants to do their business.

You are aware, Mr. Speaker, that the greatest spending department of the Government is the Department of Public Works. I believe the money which has been expended during the past year by this great department is considered by the people of this Province as money well spent, and the work has been magnificently done. Owing to the wet weather prevailing during the first part of the season, the various works were somewhat delayed, particularly road construction and improvement. However, in view of the fine and open Fall, we were able to complete the greater part of the work undertaken, and a larger amount of work, as a whole, than the previous year.

Two hundred and ninety-six bridges were dealt with during the year; two hundred and fifty-eight of these were new structures, constructed in accordance with standard approved designs. Among the bridges worthy of special mention is a bridge over Willow Creek north of Macleod, consisting of 125 ft. steel highway span on timber substructures and timber approaches; bridge over Old Man river north of Pincher, consisting of two 160 ft. highway spans on concrete substructures; bridge over South Fork of Sheep Creek consisting of one 125 ft. and one 80 ft. highway span on pile substructures; bridge over the Middle Fork of Old Man River at Lundbrek consisting of one 80 ft. span on concrete substructures; bridge over Mosquito Creek consisting of one 60 ft. span on pile and timber substructures; bridge over Little Bow River east of Nanton consisting of one 60 ft. span on pile and timber substructures; bridge over Medicine River west of Innisfail consisting of one 125 ft. steel span on pile and timber substructures; bridge over Fallen Timber Creek west of Carstairs consisting of one 80 ft. span on concrete and masonry substructures; one 80 ft. highway span on Blindman River west of Blackfalds on piling and timber substructures; bridge over the Dog Pound west of Carstairs consisting of a 50 ft. steel span on piling and timber substructures; bridge over Horseguard Creek west of Carstairs consisting of a 50 ft. steel span on piling and timber; and bridge over the Sturgeon River at St. Albert consisting of a 60 ft. steel span on pile and timber substructures. In addition to this, work was begun and well advanced on a steel bridge over the Bow River east of Calgary at the end of the year, and the work will be completed early in 1908. The erection of a bridge over the South Saskatchewan River at Medicine Hat, which was delayed very considerably by high water during the early part of the season, is also drawing towards completion at the end of the year and will be finished early in 1908. Including the two latter bridges brings our total steel structures in the Province up to 68 and several other important structures under way, such as a bridge over the Bow River south-west of Gleichen, a bridge over the Red Deer River west of Penhold, a bridge over the Little Bow River north of Lethbridge and several other smaller steel structures now under construction at the end of the year. The total expenditure on bridges during the year amounted to \$308,848.70.

I intimated that road work was somewhat delayed in the spring, but during the latter part of the Summer and Fall we were able to accomplish a very satisfactory program of work. Owing to the influx of population into the outlying districts, it has been found absolutely necessary to extend main roads. This applies very particularly to north, north-west and west of Edmonton, and between Edmonton and Calgary east and west of the Railway line. Seventy five miles of new road were opened up and improved from Athabasca

Landing north of the Athabasca River up to the east end of Lesser Slave Lake, which has been of considerable advantage to settlers and freighters. Extensive improvements were carried on up into the Pembina and Paddle River country, on the Lac St. Anne trail and the road between Edmonton and Wabamun. In addition to this, main and colonization roads were extended in all directions, and I might say in all parts of the Province. In connection with these improvements we have endeavored as far as possible to adhere to a uniform system of road making and have found a very great advantage in the employment of competent inspectors and road foremen for the purpose of avoiding waste of money which occurs so often by unwise locations and impractical methods of conducting work.

The expenditure on roads during the year amounted to \$238,962.54.

There were six survey parties in the field during the season, locating new roads and road diversions and making final surveys of the same in order that the necessary right of way might be acquired. In this work we find that the greatest economy lies in securing the best locations in the first place. The employment of the most capable men is a necessity. The number of surveys made in 1907 was much larger than in 1906 and the work to be done of this nature is, of course, bound to increase with increased settlement. Owing to the increased value of land the amount paid out as compensation is becoming greater every year. The total expenditure on surveys during the year, including the amount paid for road diversion, amounted to \$58,006.78. This amount may very well be considered an expenditure for improvement of roads. The total amount expended for construction of roads and bridges in the year 1907 was \$605,818.02.

A total of 533½ miles of fireguard were plowed or replowed during the season at a cost of \$4,588.00. Of this amount the sum of \$773.75 was paid out of the General Revenue fund and the balance from the Large Local Improvement Trust Account. Owing to the extension of the irrigation system, principally east of Calgary, and the rapid filling up of the country, several guards plowed heretofore were abandoned last season, roads, settlement and irrigation ditches having taken their place.

During the season sixteen ferries were operated. Five new ferries were built and installed; one over the North Saskatchewan River at Brosseau, one over the North Saskatchewan River at St. Paul; one over the North Saskatchewan River west of Ellerslie; one over the Pembina River near the Pembina Post Office, and the old ferry scow at Victoria was replaced by a new scow, the old one being moved up the river to a point north of Lamont where it will be in operation next season. On the completion of a bridge over the Red Deer River at Content, the ferry in operation at that point during the last few years was placed on the Red Deer River at a point east of Olds. The total expenditure for ferries, including construction and operation, during the year, amounted to \$10,919.78.

It was found necessary in connection with the administration of the Steam Boilers Act to engage an additional inspector, who was given a district with headquarters at Red Deer. The total number of boilers inspected was 702 and the number of certificates of all classes issued was 829. Revenue from inspection and certificate fees amounted to \$5,810.00. It is gratifying to note that no accidents owing to boiler explosions occurred during the year and further that there appears to be a great tendency on the part of holders of provisional certificates to qualify for final certificates.

The administration of the Coal Mines Act has been carried on by the Provincial Inspector of Mines with headquarters at Edmonton and a District Inspector at Lethbridge who has looked after the Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Taber and Crow's Nest Coal Fields. The output of coal from reports received to date amounts to 1,830,853 tons and when all reports are received the output will probably reach 1,840,000 tons. The output of coal in tons for the N.W.T. in 1901 was 346,649; in 1902, 510,674; in 1903, 622,939; in 1904, 782,931. In Alberta in 1905, 811,228; and in 1906, 1,385,009 tons.

Thirty-five new mines were opened during the year, making a total of 97 mines known to be in operation in the Province. The expenditure for the administration of the Coal Mines Branch amounted to \$5,541.59.

The report of the Commission appointed to enquire into the Coal Mining Industry in the Province and to investigate and report upon the conditions prevailing in the coal mines and the reason for the scarcity of the coal supply which existed during the winter of 1906-1907 has been laid on the table. Valuable information has been obtained through this Commission. The present session will see several important measures enacted as a result of the findings of this Commission.

The construction of telephone lines which was commenced by the Government in September, 1906, has been vigorously continued during 1907. A total of 544 miles has been constructed and 53 miles of line acquired, making in all 599 miles of line in operation at the end of the year. The line from Calgary to Banff was completed and put in operation on the 1st of July, 1907. Since then the following long distance lines have been constructed:

Edmonton to Lloydminster.....	208 miles.
Wetaskiwin to Daysland.....	68 "
Lacombe to Stettler.....	62 "
Blairmore to Macleod.....	65 "
Edmonton to Battenburg.....	25 "
Vegreville to Warwick.....	11 "
Stoney Plain, west.....	10 "

The lines acquired by purchase are as follows:

Edmonton to Leduc.....	28 miles.
Edmonton farmers' line.....	25 "

In addition to the large amount of long distance line construction completed, the Government has also installed or acquired 18 exchanges. Those acquired were at Macleod, Blairmore, Lloydminster and Fort Saskatchewan. A large number of petitions have been received asking for the construction of rural and farmers' party lines and there is every indication that a large amount of construction work will have to be undertaken during the coming year. The total expenditure for construction, lines acquired, and operation was \$262,262.79.

During the year the construction of some nine buildings has been carried on, viz: The Normal School, Calgary; Court House, Cardston; Court House, Wetaskiwin; terrace administrative building, Edmonton; Lieutenant Governor's stable, Edmonton; Legislative Hall, Edmonton; and a cottage building and stable at Elk Park. The Normal School Building at Calgary, and the Court House Building at Cardston will be finished early in 1908. The other group of buildings at Edmonton were completed or nearly completed at the end of the year. Construction work has begun on the Parliament Buildings at Edmonton. The excavation work has been finished preparatory

to putting in concrete foundations. A commencement was also made on the construction of a Court House building at Wetaskiwin. In addition to this, plans were prepared for several other large buildings, viz: A Court House at Calgary, Court House at Edmonton, Cold Storage Building at Calgary, a Land Titles Building at Calgary, etc., etc. The preparation of plans for the above buildings has entailed a very considerable amount of labour. It was necessary to make many changes before we could arrive at the design most suitable to the requirements in each case.

Some difficulty has been experienced due to the contractors for the construction of the Normal School failing, owing principally to the financial stringency. It has been necessary in the case of the Normal School building for the Government to take over the work. The total expenditure on buildings was \$242,841.99.

#### LOCAL IMPROVEMENT BRANCH.

During the year, in addition to carrying on the usual work of administering the Local Improvement Act, the Village Act and that part of the School Ordinance relating to the collection of arrears of school taxes in rural school districts, we also administered those parts of the Educational Tax Act relating to the assessment and collection of educational taxes, and by this additional work we now come in contact with the majority of the ratepayers in the Province, either directly or indirectly, and as a consequence the business carried on through this Branch has been greatly increased during the year. This increase is particularly noticeable in connection with the large amount of correspondence and the large number of additional records it is necessary to keep. In the Large Local Improvement Districts, while the lands are being continually reduced by the organization of new small districts, yet the increase in settlement and purchase of lands is keeping pace with these organizations, as shown by the fact that although the large local improvement district area was considerably reduced by small districts established at the beginning of 1907, yet our total assessment for the year 1907 was \$149,406.83, as compared with a total assessment of \$145,844.08 for the year 1906. In the Annual Report of the Department of Public Works for the year 1906 it was pointed out that our assessment work was rendered much more difficult on account of the fact that lands are continually changing hands without transfers being registered. This difficulty was also experienced during 1907 and has become a source of a great deal of delay in the collection of taxes. The total amount of taxes collected in Large Local Improvement Districts in the year 1907 amounted to \$61,744.49. In addition to this there was also the sum of \$1,842.08 collected for tax certificate fees and other payments, which were also placed to the credit of the Large Local Improvement District Trust Fund.

#### SMALL LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS.

During the year 1907 eighteen new districts were organized, making a total of 163 districts in existence at the end of the year.

#### VILLAGES.

During the year 1907 nine villages were established and four villages, viz: Daysland, Magrath, Nanton and Taber, were raised to towns.



## COLLECTION OF ARREARS OF SCHOOL TAXES.

During the year 1907 we collected and forwarded to the different rural school districts in the Province the sum of \$6,135.41 as arrears of school taxes.

## IN THE INTEREST OF FARMERS.

With reference to some of the work under the direction of the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture, in the first place I would draw the attention of the honorable Members to the Dairy Industry. I may say that the climatic conditions during the first part of the year,—in the Spring of 1907,—were especially against the dairy industry of the Province, consequently there was a slight set back as far as the production of butter was concerned. While the output was smaller yet the prices realized were considerably higher than in previous years.

One very encouraging feature, and worthy of special mention, is that in districts where the farmers were properly equipped for feeding and caring for their dairy stock the shortage in the output was very small and the higher prices obtained brought increased profits to the farmers.

During the past season 45 creameries were in operation in the Province. Of these 21 were operated by the Government, for the co-operative Associations owning them, and 24 were managed by private enterprise. Eight Cheese Factories were also in operation. The total output of the creameries during the year was 1,500,000 pounds of butter, valued at \$350,000 and the Cheese Factories turned out 195,000 pounds of cheese valued at about \$27,000.

During the year 9 new Creameries and 4 Cheese Factories were established.

In addition to carrying on the operation of the 21 Creameries and general instruction work the Government sent travelling dairies to a number of districts where the farmers were not within reach of Creameries or Cheese Factories. Lectures and practical demonstrations were given, by the instructors in charge, dealing with approved methods of farm butter making.

Another branch of the work of the Government dairy service is the encouragement of, and assistance towards, the formation and work of Dairy Record Associations, having for their object the improvement of dairy herds through careful management and selection on the basis of actual milk and butter yield.

It is confidently expected that this work will show gratifying results in the very near future. Successful dairying is possible only with a good class of stock, properly cared for and managed.

Notwithstanding the slight set back of last year there is every prospect of a gradual, solid development of the dairy industry of our Province. At a meeting of the patrons of the creamery held recently in Edmonton the work and policy of the Government with reference to the dairy industry was strongly commended.

A vigorous campaign was also carried on by the Department of Agriculture for the destruction of noxious weeds. This is a most important part of our work.

During the year we offered a bounty on wolves and coyotes and paid out \$3,598.70 for bounty, and in addition to that paid \$1,030.00 to the Stock Association for the destruction of wolves.

There happened to be several outbreaks of contagious diseases here and there throughout the Province, which were promptly and carefully attended to by the Health Department of the Department of Agriculture.

You will recollect, Mr. Speaker, in the early part of last year stock judging schools were held in nine or ten places in the Province. These schools created great interest and were attended by a large number of people. Two carloads of the best stock in the Province being used for illustration purposes.

Professor Campbell, a noted expert from the United States, was brought to the Province to give lectures and demonstrations in the matter of Dry Farming. It is expected his services will be secured again this year.

A number of new exhibition associations were established during the year and the grants to exhibitions increased considerably over the previous year.

Honorable Members are all familiar with the work of the Beef Commission. The report of the Commission is quite interesting and valuable and it is hoped good results may come of it.

We are getting our Bacteriological Branch of the Department of Agriculture in good shape. This branch will be of great service to the people residing especially in the towns and cities of the Province. We hope to make a diagnosis of contagious, infectious and other diseases, analysis of water, soils, foods, etc.

A sanitary engineer was appointed by the Government during the year, whose duty it is to advise the towns and cities of the Province in regard to sewage and waterworks. I believe the Engineer whom we have secured will be found a competent and practical sanitary engineer. His work is most important, especially in the early history of the Province, and we hope for good results.

There is left one department and by no means the least important, with regard to which I have as yet said nothing, namely the Education Department. When in Columbus, Ohio, last Fall, I observed in the grounds around the Capitol building a piece of statuary in commemoration of the sons of Ohio who had attained fame in the larger sphere of Federal politics. I noticed it was erected to the memory of Harrison, Hayes, Garfield and McKinley, and others who served as Governors. As I observed this beautiful piece of workmanship, my mind reverted to this Province of Alberta. I noticed over this piece of statuary the words, "These are our Jewels." I felt that we had no noted sons of Alberta who had departed and had shed lustre upon the Province of Alberta. I felt, however, that we in Alberta have our jewels; the girls and the boys and the young men and young women of the Province of Alberta are our jewels! It is indeed gratifying to find that the Members of this Legislature, one and all, are pleased to give so liberally for Educational purposes. We do not propose to lessen to any extent the very liberal grants which we give to our schools in this Province.

It is pleasing to note, too, Mr. Speaker, that a large number of new school districts were erected during the past year.

#### STATISTICS RE SCHOOLS.

##### Number of School Districts—

In existence December 31st, 1906, as per Departmental Report.....	746
Erected during 1907 .....	156
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>902</b>

## SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND SCHOOL GRANTS.

	1906	1907
No. of ungraded Schools in operation .....	532	640
No. of departments in operation in graded schools.....	228	300
No. of ungraded departments open during whole year.....	256	287
No. of ungraded departments open during part of year.....	276	353
No. of departments in graded schools open during whole year.....	214	256
No. of departments in graded schools open during part of year.....	14	44

## GRANTS.

Total grant, 1906.....	\$ 150,513.37
Grant, 1st term, 1906.....	79,543.41
Grant, 1st term, 1907.....	91,617.67
Grant for second term, 1907, not yet calculated.	

## RE DEBENTURES.

	Authorized.	Registered.
1905 Sep. 1st—Dec. 31st.....	\$66,700.00	\$81,500.00
1906 Sep. 1st—Dec. 31st.....	422,325.00	347,175.00
1907 Sep. 1st—Dec. 31st.....	674,515.00	485,165.00
Totals.....	\$1,163,540.00	\$913,840.00

## EXAMINATIONS

	Wrote.		Successful.	
Candidates in all Standards, N.W.T., 1905.....	1,215		815	
Candidates in all Standards, Alberta, 1906.....	772		539	
Candidates in all Standards, Alberta, 1907.....	931		555	
	1906	1907	1906	1907
	Wrote.		Successful.	
No. of Candidates in Standard V.....	444	540	318	308
No. of Candidates in Standard VI.....	181	230	108	124
No. of Candidates in Standard VII.....	113	113	85	84
No. of Candidates in Standard VIII.....	33	45	27	37
No. of Candidates in Extras only.....	1	3	1	2
Totals.....	772	931	539	555

Just a few days ago I received an application for the erection of a new school district in the constituency of my honourable friend the Member for Peace River. The district to be erected is a little west of Lesser Slave Lake, some 250 miles north of Edmonton. It is very pleasing that the people take such a great interest in the Education of their children.

## INSPECTORS.

At present there are seven school inspectors in the Province but owing to the rapid increase in the number of schools we will doubtless add another inspector this year.

## SCHOOLS FOR GALICIANS.

Honourable members will no doubt recollect that two years ago I intimated to this House that the Government had arranged for a supervisor or organizer for schools among the Ruthenians or Galicians of the Province. The House will, no doubt, be delighted to learn that among these people forty-eight school districts have been erected. With only one exception these school districts issued debentures for construction of school houses and for their equipment. Twenty-five of these districts have their school buildings completed. The Official Supervisor gives it as his opinion that the school buildings are roomier and better lighted than the ordinary rural schools in

English speaking communities. The idea of building and furnishing a small house and renting it to the teacher seems to meet with general favor. The Inspector of Schools in making his report for the year 1906 stated that he did not visit many of these schools, as they were very well looked after by the Supervisor. He said in passing, "My opinion with regard to these settlers has changed since I have been among them. They are an industrious hard-working people and seem to take an interest in education when the work is once started. Where schools have been erected among these people the attendance is good and often does not vary more than two or three from day to day. One school I visited had twenty-five Galicians, and the children were doing very well indeed. Another had forty-eight pupils, the majority being Galicians." It is gratifying to us that the people throughout the province take such a deep interest in education. The School buildings that are being erected would be a credit to an older province.

I think probably, Mr. Speaker, I have covered to the extent which I should the work which has been accomplished by the Government during the past year.

I shall now draw your attention, Mr. Speaker, to the estimates of the Revenue and Expenditure for the year upon which we have entered.

#### ESTIMATED RECEIPTS.

The estimates for next year are:—

	Balance brought forward from 1907.....	\$ 69,650.05
<b>DOMINION SUBSIDY, \$1,254,125.00—</b>		
	Government and Legislation.....	\$ 180,000.00
	Population.....	200,000.00
	Annual payment to Province.....	405,375.00
	Compensation, Public Lands.....	375,000.00
	Public Buildings fund.....	93,750.00
<b>SCHOOL LANDS FUND, \$60,000.00—</b>		
	Interest on principal moneys and other sources.....	60,000.00
<b>ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, \$387,544.65—</b>		
	Land Titles Offices fees (net fees collected by the Dominion, Sept. 1905, to Sept. 7th, 1906..	112,544.65
	Registrar's fees.....	135,000.00
	Court fees.....	48,000.00
	Liquor Licenses.....	70,000.00
	Fines under Statutes and Ordinances.....	22,000.00
<b>PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, \$50,000.00—</b>		
	Telephones.....	40,000.00
	Steam Boiler Inspection and other fees.....	10,000.00
<b>EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, \$1,200.00—</b>		
	Examination fees.....	\$ 1,200.00
<b>AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT, \$257,500.00—</b>		
	Reimbursement of advances on butter and poultry.....	250,000.00
	Brand and other fees.....	4,000.00
	Game Licenses.....	3,500.00
<b>PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT, \$35,000.00—</b>		
	Fees under Ordinances.....	25,000.00
	Licenses and other fees.....	10,000.00
<b>GOVERNMENT PRINTER, \$3,000.00—</b>		
	Official Gazette.....	2,000.00
	Sale of Official Publications.....	1,000.00
<b>TREASURY DEPARTMENT, \$144,730.00—</b>		
	Hail Insurance fees.....	30,000.00
	Corporation Tax Act.....	31,000.00
	Railway Tax Act.....	60,730.00
	Interest on Bank Balances.....	23,000.00

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, \$2,000.00—	
Private Bills fees.....	\$ 2,000.00
MISCELLANEOUS, \$359,288.99—	
Reimbursement from Telephone Expenditure..	284,288.99
Return from other sources.....	75,000.00
	<u>\$2,554,388.64</u>
Total estimated revenue.....	<u>\$2,624,038.69</u>

## ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE.

Civil Government.....	\$ 192,065.00
Legislation.....	37,700.00
Administration of Justice.....	366,920.00
Public Works.....	1,110,500.00
Education.....	270,900.00
Agriculture and Statistics.....	470,675.56
Hospitals, Charities and Public Health.....	51,750.00
Miscellaneous.....	102,200.00
Total.....	<u>\$2,602,710.56</u>
Revenue as per estimate.....	\$2,624,038.69
Expenditure as per estimate.....	<u>2,602,710.56</u>
Estimated surplus, 1908.....	\$ 21,328.13

A statement of the estimated expenditure for the year 1908, Mr. Speaker, has been placed in your hands. I consider that it is proper that I should draw your attention to some of the increases over last year. There are some increases and some decreases in our proposed expenditures under the various headings.

The Executive Council of this Province is composed of four Members. The Executive Council of Manitoba is composed of six Members, who receive the same salaries as we do. That Province incurs an expenditure of ten thousand dollars a year more than the expenditure incurred in salaries by the Members of the Executive of this Administration. I do not mention this matter in any critical spirit whatever but merely to draw the attention of honorable Members to it, and to the fact that we have an excellent body of civil servants. The expenditure of Manitoba is about similar to ours in amount.

We have what I consider a very efficient Civil Service in the Province of Alberta. If we did not have efficient employees it would be impossible for the Members of the Government to carry on the business of the administration as they do. I think it is only just to draw the attention of honourable Members to the fact that in all branches of the Public Service every employee is doing their work with every efficiency. The salaries paid are reasonable.

The amount we ask for legislation this year over and above the amount asked last year is the sum of \$3,700.00, made up as follows:

Salary of Librarian.....	\$1,800.00
Salary of Archivist.....	1,000.00
Extra Clerical Assistance.....	900.00

We are placing our library in better shape and I am sure that honourable Members are anxious to have a good provincial library and one that will be a credit to Alberta. Additions are being made to our books. I consider it is desirable that our documents and papers of an historical character should be collected as soon as possible. Consequently there is an amount in the estimates for the salary of an archivist who will also assist in the work of the library.

For the Administration of Justice we voted last year \$345,722.68 and for this year we ask \$369,420.00, an increase of \$23,697.32 which is made up largely as follows:

Witness, Jurors and Interpreters' fees..	\$5,000.00
Registration Offices.....	13,300.00

The balance to cover coroners' inquests and other investigations.

We estimate that the revenue from our Registry Offices this year including assurance fund will amount to \$200,000.00, the receipts being \$133,000.00 over the expenditure. I noticed from a copy of the estimates for the Province of Manitoba which I received a short time ago that their estimated receipts from Registry Offices for this year is \$187,000.00. Their estimated expenditure for salaries and operation of offices is \$123,820.00, leaving a surplus in this respect of \$63,180.00, compared with ours of \$133,000.00.

I have this to say, Mr. Speaker, that in the Province of Manitoba they have some seven or eight registry offices, but you will find notwithstanding this our registry offices are conducted much more economically than those in the Province of Manitoba.

#### VARIOUS PUBLIC WORKS.

The vote asked for Public Works this year is practically the same as last year. There is, leaving out the amount for telephones, \$1,110,500.00 to be expended this year by the Public Works Department. There is an increase of \$5,000.00 for Inspection and Superintendence of Public Works. \$2,000.00 for ferry accommodation and an increase of \$50,000.00 for the construction of public roads. Allow me to draw the attention of the House to some of the details of expenditure under the head of Public Works. For the construction of roads we ask a grant of \$200,000.00 and for bridges \$275,000.00. For the survey of roads, drains and to purchase land for right-of-way, \$50,000.00, making a total of \$525,000.00 for the construction of roads and bridges. There is \$45,000.00 in the estimates for the purpose of completing the Normal School building. As I explained in my earlier remarks, we expected to have had this building completed ere this, but, owing to the failure of the contractors, the building is not finished. We hope soon to have it all complete. On the Parliament Buildings we ask a vote of \$125,000.00. We have started some work on that building. It is estimated that the cost of the Legislative building will be \$1,250,000.00. We ask \$5,000.00 for the completion of the Court House at Cardston. We estimate the erection of a Court House at Wetaskiwin will cost \$60,000.00. The work on this building has been commenced. It will be noted we ask \$25,000.00 as a first estimate for the construction of a Jail and Court House at Lethbridge. Our first estimate for the construction of the Asylum for the Insane at Ponoka is \$30,000.00. This is the amount which we will be able to expend this year for the building. We are acquiring 800 acres of land as a site. Farming operations will be carried on and thus a saving will be effected in the cost of maintenance. For the construction of a Court House at Edmonton our first estimate is \$50,000.00. Plans are pretty well completed for the construction of the Court House at Edmonton. It is likely that the cost of this building will be about \$200,000.00. It is the intention of the Government to commence this year on the construction of this building. A similar building will be erected in the City of Calgary. \$75,000.00 will be found in the estimates for the construction of a Land Titles

Office in the City of Calgary. It is expected that this building will be nearly completed before the end of this year. The total cost will be about \$100,000.00. A first estimate appears of \$5,000.00 for a reformatory or industrial school for boys. An item of \$32,000.00 appears for the purchase of sites for an asylum, jails, court houses and public buildings. We have not as yet completed the purchase of all the land required for the asylum for the insane at Ponoka. A portion has been purchased, but we expect to complete the purchase this year. Under this vote we propose to purchase a court house site at Lethbridge, which will cost seven or eight thousand dollars and a court house site at the town of Fort Saskatchewan which will cost at least one thousand dollars, and a site for a court house at Claresholm.

### EDUCATION.

In connection with the Department of Education we ask an increased vote under the head of Grants to Schools. With an increase in the number of School Districts and pupils our grants increase. We ask for \$14,000.00 for the purpose of giving readers in the Province. It is estimated that this amount will furnish readers for the children in our common schools for a period of two years. We will likely be in a position to distribute these readers this Spring. We propose to furnish a free reader to every boy and every girl in the common schools in the Province of Alberta. These readers will be, I believe, the best school readers to be found in the Dominion of Canada and probably on the continent of America. They are being prepared with the greatest care. We procure them at a very reasonable cost. The Government of the Province of Manitoba has furnished free readers to some of the departments in that Province for the last ten years. The figure which we have to pay for these readers is lower than the price that the Province of Manitoba has paid for their readers. Our readers contain much more matter and their attractiveness and mechanism are much superior to any readers that are to be found in Canada to-day. I might state that a full set of five readers will cost us only one dollar and a fraction of a cent.

#### TEACHERS' REFERENCE LIBRARY.

\$1,200.00 is asked for a teachers' reference library. It is desirable that we have a special reference library from which books can be sent to the teachers throughout the whole Province. We will bear the expense of postage in sending the books to the teachers, which they can hold for a certain time, when we will expect they will return them in good order. It is not a large vote, but I think it will procure some very desirable books, which will be appreciated by our teachers.

### AGRICULTURE.

We ask for a vote of \$470,675.56 for the Department of Agriculture. The increases in this department over last year are largely made up as follows: For the purpose of aiding agricultural societies an increase of \$4,300.00. Increase to Fat Stock Shows, \$300.00.

#### BOUNTY ON WOLVES.

Increase for the destruction of wolves and coyotes \$17,500.00 more than last year. Great destruction by wolves and coyotes

is occurring in the Province of Alberta. I am informed by the Minister of Agriculture that claims for bounty are now coming in at the rate of \$170.00 a day. I hope this sum will cover the amount which has to be paid out for their slaughter. This is a very important matter. Our poultry, sheep and cattle industries are very materially hampered by the destruction caused by coyotes and I think that this Legislature will not grudge the expenditure of quite a considerable amount of money towards the destruction of these pests.

In connection with the Bacteriological and Pathological work we ask for an increased amount of \$3,000.00. This work is exceedingly important. Previous to last year it was carried on entirely at Regina. We had to furnish half the expense and did not receive that benefit from this work which we should, and the time came for the Province to conduct this work at Edmonton.

For the promotion of dairy work and instruction we ask for \$14,000.00. This work has already accomplished a great deal for the farmers of the Province. It ought to be continued and extended to settlements which the instructors have not been able to reach heretofore.

#### LOAN TO CREAMERIES.

We ask a grant of \$21,411.06 as a loan to creamery associations. This amount will be used for paying off the indebtedness of creamery associations, which indebtedness stands largely in the banks, and on which members of the associations are now paying probably seven per cent. interest. The farmers are not asking for this as a matter of charity. They are quite willing to pay a reasonable rate of interest and are quite willing that the money should be returned in deduction from price of butter from year to year to go towards the reduction of the amount. It will not take many years for creameries operated with success to return the amount to the revenues of the Province. An amount will be recouped to the Province this year.

The Calgary Exhibition Association induced the Dominion Government to give them a grant of \$50,000.00 for the purpose of holding the Dominion Exhibition in the Province of Alberta at the City of Calgary. The directors approached the Provincial Government with a view to obtaining a grant towards this exhibition and we have in our estimates the sum of \$25,000.00 to be used for the promotion of this Fair in the City of Calgary. It is gratifying to learn that the Manager of the Exhibition Association is meeting with splendid success. Several, if not all, of the Provinces of Canada expect to have exhibits. If we can make this Exhibition as great a success as it ought to be it will certainly stand to the credit of not only the City of Calgary but of the whole Province of Alberta. I might state, Mr. Speaker, that the Provincial Government intend to have a Provincial Exhibit at this Exhibition.

#### TO INVESTIGATE MEAT INDUSTRY.

There is an estimate of \$5,000.00 for investigation into the meat industry. A large number of farmers of the province consider that there ought to be in the province a Pork Packing and Beef Canning establishment. We will have to conduct an investigation into this matter and find out the cost in connection with it. We do not intend to appoint any commission but employ two or three men two farmers and probably a business man, in order to look



into this matter. A large number of the farmers of this Province asked for the co-operation of the Government and if we are to go into the business it is desirable that we should go into it on a sound footing and with a view to making the business a success. One of the chief arguments is that if the Government will operate a Pork Packing Plant, there will be a more stable price for pork and beef than heretofore.

For grants to hospitals we ask quite an increased vote, namely \$11,000.00. The people of the Province will greatly appreciate the increased grant we have been able to give for the support of patients who are so unfortunate that they are unable to pay for their own attendance and care.

Under Miscellaneous we ask for a similar vote to last year for printing and binding done and stationery or office supplies purchased for the use of the Legislative Assembly or any department of the Public Service. I might state that some little criticism has occurred in some newspapers in the Province with regard to the purchase of stationery. I noticed it was alleged that we gave an order for seventy thousand note heads at a price of six dollars a thousand to a certain newspaper office in the City of Edmonton, when we could procure them for \$3.50 a thousand. Immediately on seeing this newspaper item I called on the King's Printer and asked him in regard to this alleged order. He informed me that no such order had ever been given for note heads. If it had been given and if we only ordered one thousand he would have paid three dollars and fifty cents, but if any such order approaching seventy thousand had been given he would have procured the note heads at two dollars a thousand.

#### SEED GRAIN PROVISION.

Under the heading "Unforeseen and Unprovided For," to be expended under the direction of the Provincial Treasurer, honourable Members will note the sum of \$25,000.00. A great deal of interest and anxiety was displayed last Fall with regard to furnishing or procuring of Seed Grain in the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. The farmers of the Province of Saskatchewan are probably worse off than we are in the Province of Alberta. They required a much larger quantity of seed grain for this year than we did. It was felt by the Government of the Province that it was desirable to have sufficient seed grain to furnish to all who would require it throughout this Province. Upon taking the matter up with the Dominion Government and the various railway companies operating in the Province an understanding was arrived at. It is a very difficult matter indeed to deal with and I am sure it was gratifying to know that such co-operation has been accomplished. We hope to be able to furnish good seed grain to every farmer who may request it throughout the Province of Alberta this Spring. It is desirable that farmers who can secure good seed locally will do so and thus lighten the burden in connection with the distribution of seed grain throughout the Province.

I have scarcely any idea as to what extra expense the Government will be put to, which will not be reimbursed in connection with the sales of seed grain, but it will certainly amount to quite a little expenditure. We have consequently this item in our estimates under the head of unforeseen and unprovided for to be expended under the direction of the Provincial Treasurer in connection with the furnishing of seed grain.

We ask the same vote as last year, namely, \$1,200.00, to be given the Provincial Rifle Association, towards defraying expenses at Ottawa, of a rifle team to represent the Province, and for prizes. One of our Alberta men was able to secure the Governor General's Prize at Ottawa last year for his rifle shooting. This is the highest prize received at our Dominion Rifle Association Meet.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, the Members of this Legislature will be delighted to continue the amount of the vote which has been given for this purpose in the past. Two of our men are entitled to go to the Old country to shoot at Bisley this present year.

#### HAIL INSURANCE AND TELEPHONES.

Under the head of expenditure under The Hail Insurance Ordinance we ask for the same vote as last year. Although we went behind last year some ten or twelve thousand dollars over and above the amount of premium received, yet I feel that money spent in this connection is money well spent. I hope many more farmers than heretofore will avail themselves of the advantages of Hail Insurance.

We are asking for a supplementary vote of \$1,200,000.00 to provide for expenditure for the construction, operation, maintenance, acquiring telephone lines and exchanges and reimbursement to General Revenue Account for moneys already expended. I do not think I am disclosing any secret when I tell you that the Bell Telephone Company within the last few days sent a representative to the Province of Alberta to interview the Government with a view to the Government acquiring the Bell Telephone System in the Province. We all feel that if we can secure the plant at a reasonable and fair figure that it is desirable that we should purchase the Bell Telephone System of the Province of Alberta, consequently we have made this amount large enough to include the purchase price and reimburse the General Revenue Account, the sum of \$284,244.33 which has already been expended out of the General Revenue and to carry on some additional work in the extension of the system throughout the Province.

#### LOFTY WORK OF EMPIRE BUILDING.

A very great work has been imposed upon this Government and this Legislature in the early history of Alberta, and we are endeavoring to do the very best we can to carry on that work in the best interest of the Province.

During my visit to the Old Country last Summer, I was deeply impressed with the greatness of the motherland and the magnitude of the world's greatest Empire. We had practical evidence of this from the people we met coming from every part of the Empire. One of the best expressions of what a British subject feels in contemplation of the Empire has, it seems to me, been given to the world by one of England's most eloquent statesmen,—Lord Roseberry, and I will ask the indulgence of the House for a few moments while I read it.

"How marvellous it all is," he said; "Built not by saints and angels, but the work of men's hands; cemented with men's honest blood and with a world of tears, welded by the best brains of centuries past; not without the taint and reproach incidental to all human work, but constructed on the whole with pure and splendid purpose.

Human, and yet not wholly human, for the most heedless and the most cynical must see the finger of the Divine. Growing as trees grow while others slept; fed by the faults of others as well as by the character of our fathers; reaching with the ripple of a resistless tide over tracts and islands and continent, until our little Britain woke up to find herself the foster-mother of nations and the source of united Empires. Do we not hail in this less the energy and fortune of a race than the supreme direction of the Almighty? Shall we not, while we adore the blessing, acknowledge the responsibility?

"And while we see, far away in the rich horizons, growing generations fulfilling the promise, do we not own with resolution mingled with awe, the honourable duty incumbent on ourselves? Shall we then falter or fail? The answer is not doubtful. We will rather pray that strength may be given us, adequate and abundant, to shrink from no sacrifice in the fulfilment of our mission, that we may be true to the high tradition of our forefathers; and that we may transmit their bequest to our children, aye, and please God, to their remote descendants, enriched and undefiled, this blessed and splendid dominion."

In conclusion let me say it is my liveliest hope that this Legislature of Alberta may in its actions be ever animated with something of the spirit of our forefathers, which has made the British Empire so great.

STATEMENT OF THE REVENUE RECEIVED BY THE  
TREASURER OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,  
1907.

DOMINION OF CANADA—		
Annual subsidy.....		\$1,053,708.34
TREASURY DEPARTMENT—		
Hail Insurance fees.....	\$ 22,241.37	
Fees under Corporation Taxation Act.....	30,293.29	
Railway Tax.....	121,460.00	
Interest.....	21,926.81	
		<hr/> 195,921.47
PROVINCIAL SECRETARY—		
License fees:		
Auctioneers.....	\$ 790.00	
Pedlars.....	475.00	
Marriage.....	3,130.00	
Automobiles.....	169.00	
Certificates Provincial Seal.....	121.00	
Companies Ordinance:		
Incorporation fees.....	10,934.00	
Registration fees on documents.....	698.00	
Foreign Companies Ordinance:		
License fees.....	12,915.00	
Registration fees on documents.....	1,377.95	
Incorporation fees, Chapter 22, 1907.....	7.00	
Registration fees, Chapter 5, 1907, Sec. 10.....	3.00	
		<hr/> 30,619.95
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL—		
Notaries Public.....	\$ 620.00	
Commissions for oaths.....	90.00	
Succession Duties.....	484.00	
Court Costs, L. I. O.....	80.00	
Land Titles Offices, fees.....	131,256.20	
Escheated Bail.....	200.00	
		<hr/>
Carried forward.....		\$1,280,249.76

	Brought forward.....	\$1,280,249.76	
Liquor License Ordinance:			
	Hotel Licenses.....	\$ 55,050.29	
	Wholesale Licenses.....	10,112.21	
	Dining Car Licenses.....	200.00	
	Commercial Travellers.....	3,570.00	
	Brewers and Distillers.....	1,260.00	
	Permits.....	460.00	
	Forfeited Protest fees.....	40.00	
Fines:			
	Dominion Statutes.....	10,031.76	
	Ordinances.....	11,643.41	
	Court fees.....	47,497.73	
			272,595.60
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT—			
	Coal Mines Act:		
	Mine Managers.....	\$ 195.00	
	Pit and Fire Boss.....	444.00	
	Steam Boilers Act:		
	Engineers Examination fees.....	2,449.00	
	Steam Boilers Inspection.....	3,361.00	
	Lease of Road Allowances.....	677.05	
	Redemption fees and Advertising, L.I.O.....	151.68	
	Redemption fees and Advertising, S.A.O.....	6.00	
	Refund taxes, L.I.O.....	75.80	
	Sale of Material.....	270.75	
	Freighting on Ferries.....	25.00	
	Telephone fees.....	4,268.24	
	Ferry License.....	1.00	
	Destruction of Noxious Weeds.....	6.50	
	Local Improvement Branch:		
	Sale of Stationery.....	195.73	
			12,126.75
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE—			
	Brand fees.....	\$ 2,728.50	
	Vital Statistics.....	45.50	
	Registration of Stallions.....	1,139.00	
	Game Licenses.....	3,499.50	
	Sale of Brand Books.....	8.00	
	Unclaimed proceeds sale of Estrays.....	384.97	
	Sale of Poultry Buildings, etc.....	193.50	
	Sale of Dressed Poultry.....	400.04	
	Sale of Stock from Stock Judging.....	242.37	
			8,641.38
DAIRY COMMISSIONER—			
	Sales of Butter.....	\$ 175,006.74	
	Refunds.....	3,913.25	
			178,919.99
EDUCATION—			
	Examination fees.....		1,154.00
LEGISLATION—			
	Private Bill fees.....		2,250.00
GOVERNMENT PRINTER—			
	Gazette, subscriptions and advertising.....	\$ 2,027.56	
	Sale of Ordinances, etc.....	887.39	
	Sale of Material.....	4.45	
			2,919.40
MISCELLANEOUS—			
	Refunds.....	\$ 16,245.58	
	Public Buildings fund.....	244,058.04	
	Public School Lands fund.....	62,667.11	
			322,970.73
	Carried forward.....	\$2,081,827.61	

Brought forward.....	\$2,081,827.61
EDUCATIONAL TAX FUND.....	25,779.67
Total General Revenue.....	\$2,107,607.28
TRUST FUNDS—	
License.....	\$ 5,323.17
General.....	3,370.07
Liquidation.....	3,036.48
Occidental Fire Insurance.....	177.85
Special.....	26.33
Registrars' Assurance.....	54,473.14
	66,407.04
Total Revenue.....	\$2,174,014.32

STATEMENT OF THE EXPENDITURES MADE BY THE  
TREASURER OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER,  
31, 1907.

CIVIL GOVERNMENT—	
Executive Council.....	\$ 37,148.08
Dept. Attorney General.....	14,051.36
Dept. Provincial Secretary.....	4,046.69
Treasury Department.....	8,170.57
Audit Office.....	7,653.97
Dept. Public Works.....	43,407.94
Department of Education.....	11,082.07
Department of Agriculture.....	20,858.85
Lieutenant Governor's Office.....	1,436.00
	\$147,855.53
LEGISLATION—	
Mr. Speaker's allowance.....	\$ 1,500.00
Deputy Speaker's.....	200.00
Indemnity to Members.....	25,724.80
Clerk of Legislative Assembly.....	800.00
Pages.....	150.00
Postage and Telegrams.....	20.22
Library.....	2,340.72
Newspapers and Periodicals.....	219.15
Contingencies.....	1,577.25
	32,532.14
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE—	
Clerks, and Deputy and Acting Clerks.....	\$ 19,152.94
Process Issuers.....	615.61
Sheriffs, and Deputy and Acting Sheriffs.....	5,418.40
Official Shorthand Writers.....	3,057.85
Contingencies.....	416.24
Agents of the Attorney General.....	8,022.56
Witnesses, Jurors and Interpreters.....	13,776.87
Special Provincial Police.....	1,490.45
Coroners' Inquests.....	4,685.38
Incidental Justice.....	1,867.20
Land Titles Office, Edmonton.....	21,592.68
Land Titles Office, Calgary.....	22,630.74
Maintenance and Transportation of Prisoners.....	41,042.30
Maintenance of Guard Room and Transportation of Insane.....	7,020.84
Committal and Maintenance in Asylum of Insane.....	40,291.95
Law Library.....	1,824.42
Inspections, License Branch.....	10,141.05
Expenses Commissioners' Meetings.....	544.98
Advertising.....	240.31
Prosecutions.....	1,244.25
Contingencies.....	770.14
	205,847.16
Carried forward.....	\$ 386,234.83

Brought forward.....\$ 386,234.83

## PUBLIC WORKS—

Legislative and Departmental Buildings.....	\$ 46,424.95
Normal School, Calgary, rent.....	800.00
Maintenance Government House.....	3,190.68
Inspection of Public Works.....	15,736.27
Inspection of Coal Mines.....	5,541.59
Inspection of Steam Boilers.....	6,615.32
Fireguards.....	773.75
Testing for water, etc.....	8,000.13
Ferry Service.....	10,919.78
Ditches and Drains.....	509.19
Maintenance Public Works.....	14,161.63
Roads.....	238,962.54
Bridges.....	308,848.70
Surveys.....	58,006.78
Construction Normal School, Calgary.....	95,193.97
Cold Storage, Calgary.....	80
Parliament Buildings.....	128,693.97
Construction Court House, Cardston.....	13,480.11
Sites for Asylums and Jails.....	11,045.50
Construction Court House, Wetaskiwin.....	3,230.39
Tools and Implements.....	21,581.53
Construction Jail at Lethbridge.....	2,137.85
Construction Land Titles Office, Calgary.....	104.90
Provincial Telephones.....	262,262.79
Contingencies.....	15,214.34
	<hr/> 1,271,437.46

## EDUCATION—

Grant to Schools.....	\$ 159,725.89
Normal Schools and Teachers' Institutes.....	6,687.29
Inspection of Schools.....	11,333.31
Travelling Expenses, Inspectors.....	4,491.25
Site Provincial University.....	150,000.00
Supervision of Schools among foreigners.....	2,371.35
Expenses meeting Educational Council.....	14.95
Examinations.....	2,773.27
Education, Transportation and Maintenance Deaf, Mute and Blind Children.....	1,476.35
Dominion Educational Association.....	100.00
Contingencies.....	113.65
	<hr/> 339,087.31

## AGRICULTURE AND STATISTICS—

Agricultural Societies.....	\$ 14,550.45
Official Judges.....	1,593.35
Institutes.....	10,451.33
Farm crops experiments.....	3,383.04
Fat stock show.....	1,000.00
Production improved stock.....	630.00
Destruction of Wolves.....	4,628.70
Destruction Noxious Weeds.....	16,358.72
Stock Inspection.....	2,211.40
Brands.....	3,854.12
Vital Statistics.....	1,861.75
Medical, Agricultural and other Statistics.....	1,487.47
Sugar Beet Industry.....	23,366.50
Protection of Game.....	2,215.62
Bacteriological and Pathological.....	3,590.71
Dairy Work and Poultry Fattening.....	11,374.15
Maintenance Fruit Experimental Stations.....	299.80
Grant to Cattle Breeders' Association.....	600.00
Grant to Horse Breeders' Association.....	400.00
Grant to Sheep Breeders' Association.....	400.00
Grant to Swine Breeders' Association.....	200.00
Grant to Alberta Fairs Association.....	300.00
Provincial Seed Fair.....	449.40
Departmental Library.....	476.08

Carried forward.....\$1,996,759.60

Brought forward.....\$1,996,759.60

Loans to Creameries.....	\$ 13,114.15	
Advance to Creameries.....	183,160.11	
Advance Poultry Fattening.....	6,591.68	
Grant to Alberta Farmers' Association.....	300.00	
Immigration and Colonization.....	5,498.75	
Contingencies.....	598.95	
		314,946.23

HOSPITALS, CHARITIES AND PUBLIC HEALTH—

Expenditure under the Hospital Ordinance.....	\$ 31,438.50	
Expenditure under Public Health Act.....	3,959.89	
Care of Incurables.....	1,437.60	
Contingencies.....	1,351.48	
		38,187.47

MISCELLANEOUS—

Government Printer.....	\$ 43,910.66	
Consolidation of Ordinances.....	7,601.24	
Elections.....	299.60	
Guarantee Bonds.....	174.00	
Refunds.....	48.32	
Grant to Provincial Rifle Association.....	1,200.00	
Grant to Alpine Club.....	500.00	
Hail Insurance.....	33,113.66	
Commissions.....	7,412.23	
		94,259.71

REMISSIONS.....3,222.28

GRANT TO 15TH LIGHT HORSE BAND.....3,000.00

Total General Expenditure.....\$2,450,375.29

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ALBERTA TREASURY DEPT  
BUDGET SPEECH --

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